

CLAIMS

1. In a beverage dispenser having a hollow body with a closed bottom, a top assembly with an inlet for passing beverage into the hollow body, an enclosing sidewall extending between the top assembly and the bottom, a faucet mounted to the hollow body adjacent the bottom for dispensing beverage contained within the hollow body, a method of serving freshly brewed beverage from the dispenser, comprising the steps of:

moving a closure member from a closed position in which access to the inlet is closed and the closure member blocks location of the hollow body to a fill position in which access to the inlet is provided and the closure member is removed from a blocking position to enable movement of the hollow body to the fill position for receipt of beverage from the source through the inlet;

moving the hollow body to the fill location beneath the source for receipt of beverage through the inlet and into the hollow body;

passing beverage from the source through the inlet until a preselected amount of beverage has been passed into the hollow body while in the fill position;

after the preselected quantity of beverage has been passed, removing the hollow body from the fill position beneath the source; and

returning the closure member to the closed position in which the closure member blocks movement of the dispenser to a fill position beneath a source of freshly brewed beverage; and

serving beverage from the dispenser through the faucet at a serving location spaced from the source of freshly brewed beverage

2. The method of claim 1 in which the dispenser has a top and the closure member extends above the top when in the closed position to block movement of the beverage dispenser to the fill position beneath the beverage source by engaging the beverage source.

3. The method of claim 1 in which the closure member is of a color that contrasts with that of the top to facilitate visibility when in the closed position.
4. The method of claim 3 in which the step of returning the closure member to the closed position includes moving a cover to which the closure member is movably mounted to an elevated position to enable return of the closure member to the closed position.
5. The method of claim 1 in which the step of moving the closure member to an open position includes the step of moving a cover to which the closure member is movably attached to an elevated position to enable movement of the closure member to the open position.
6. With a beverage dispenser having a hollow body with a closed bottom, a top assembly with an inlet for passing beverage into the hollow body, an enclosing sidewall extending between the top assembly and the bottom, a faucet mounted to the hollow body adjacent the bottom for dispensing beverage contained within the hollow body, a method of brewing, comprising the steps of:
- mounting a cover with an inlet access opening for movement between an operative position in which the inlet access opening is aligned with the inlet and the cover overlies the top assembly, and an inoperative position; and
 - movably mounting an inlet closure member to the cover for selectively closing the inlet access opening to prevent access to the inlet when the cover is in the operative position and the inlet access opening is aligned with the inlet;
 - passing freshly brewed beverage from a brewer directly into the hollow body through the inlet access opening and inlet when the inlet closure member is in the inoperative position; and
 - removing the beverage dispenser from the brewer and to a serving location; and
 - moving the inlet closure member to the operative position after the beverage dispenser is moved to the serving location.

7. The method of claim 6 in which the steps of moving the closure member are done by pivoting the closure member relative to the cover.
8. The method of claim 6 in which the cover has an underside and the steps of moving the closure member includes the step of moving the closure member to different operative and inoperative positions includes moving the closure member to different locations beneath the underside of the cover.
9. The method of claim 6 in which an upper portion of the closure member extends above the inlet access opening and the cover when in the operative position and including the step of blocking the beverage dispenser from being located beneath a brewer in a beverage receiving location with the upper portion when the closure member is in the operative position.
10. The method of claim 9 in which the beverage brewer has a brew basket with a beverage outlet at a level to block entry of the hollow body beneath the brew basket with the inlet aligned with the brew basket by means of lateral engagement of the brew basket with the upper portion of the closure member.
11. The method of claim 6 in which the step of moving the closure member to the operative position includes extending the closure member through the inlet access opening from an underside of the cover.
12. The method of claim 6 including the step of disabling movement of the closure member between the operative and inoperative position when the cover is in the operative position.
13. The method of claim 6 including the step of enhancing visual display of the closure member with a color for the closure member that contrasts with a color of the cover to enhance visibility of the closure member when in the closed position.

14. The method of claim 6 in which the closure member has a hemispherical surface and including the step of extending at least a portion of the hemispherical surface above the top when in the closure member is in the operative position.

15. The method of claim 6 including the step of holding at least a portion of the closure member in nestled receipt within a mating recess of the closure member when the closure member is in the inoperative position.

16. The method of claim 6 including the step of releasably locking the cover in the operative position with a manually actuated latch.

17. The method of claim 6 in which the dispenser includes a movably mounted handle and including the steps of moving the hand between an upwardly extending carry position above the top and a generally horizontal, non-carry position in which the handle is not above the top.

18. The method of claim 17 in which the cover is mounted for pivotal movement between the operative position and the inoperative position and including the step of positioning the handle relative to a path of movement of the cover to limit such pivotal movement when the handle is in the generally horizontal non-carry position.

19. The method of claim 17 in which the cover is removably mounted to the top and including the step of positioning the handle relative to the cover to block removal of the cover when the handle is in the generally horizontal, non-carry position.

20. The method of claim 17 in which the top has a pair of pivot axle stub receiving slots and the cover has a pair of mating pivot axle stubs receivable within the pair of slots, respectively, and including the step of moving the handle to the generally horizontal non-carry position to block removal of the pivot axle stubs from receipt within the slots.

21. The method of claim 6 in which the top has a pair of pivot axle stub receiving slots and the cover has a pair of mating pivot axle stubs receivable within the pair of slots respectively and including the step of preventing sliding removal of the stubs from receipt within the stub receiving slots.

22. The method of claim 21 in which the step of preventing includes the step of carrying a manual latch member with the cover to latch the cover against sliding movement relative to the top in a direction transverse to the axle stubs.

23. The method of claim 6 in which the dispenser assembly has a funnel assembly, and including the steps of

removably mounting the funnel assembly within the inlet, and

blocking removal of the funnel assembly from the inlet with means associated with the cover.

24. The method of claim 23 including the step of establishing a seal between the inlet and the funnel assembly when the funnel assembly is mounted within the inlet for receipt of freshly brewed beverage.

25. The method of claim 23 in which the funnel has a funnel body, and including the steps of

supporting the funnel body within a surrounding insulating body that is received within the inlet, and

removing the funnel body from the inlet is sufficiently large to enable manual access to the interior of the hollow body.

26. The method of claim 26 including the step of removably mounting the cover to a cover base fixedly mounted to the top and having an elevated section with a section top that is substantially flush with the cover when the cover is moved to the operative position.

27. The method of claim 26 in which the cover base has a non-elevated section that is contoured for snug receipt of the cover when the cover is moved to the operative position.

28. The method of 26 including a handle pivotally attached to the cover base that is substantially flush with the cover when the cover is moved into the operative position and the handle is in an inoperative position resting within a non-elevated handle receiving section of the cover base.

29. With a beverage dispenser having a hollow body, a closed bottom, a top with an inlet for passing beverage into the hollow body, an enclosing sidewall extending between the top and the bottom, a faucet mounted to the hollow body adjacent the bottom for dispensing beverage contained within the hollow body, a method of serving freshly brewed beverage, comprising the steps of:

- releasably mounting a funnel assembly for sealed receipt within an inlet of a cover base attached to the top;

- mounting a cover to the cover base for movement between an operative position in which the cover is nestled between a pair of upper sections and the inlet is covered, and an inoperative position in which the cover is not nestled and the inlet is not covered;

- passing freshly brewed beverage from a brewer directly into the hollow body through the funnel and inlet when the cover is in the inoperative position;

- moving the beverage dispenser away from the brewer after a brew cycle is completed;

- moving a carry handle from a non-carry position in which an uppermost surface of the handle is flush with the pair of upper surfaces to an operative carry position; and

- carrying the dispenser to a serving location with the carry handle after moved to the operative position and the cover has been moved to the operative position.

30. The method of claim 29 in which the carry handle is moved between the operative and inoperative positions by pivotal movement about inwardly facing pivot axle receiving bores receiving and pivot axle stubs on opposite sides of the carry handle.

31. The method of claim 29 including the steps of

moving the carry handle to the inoperative non-carry position after the dispenser has been moved to the serving location, and

blocking the cover from pivotal movement beyond a preselected maximum inoperative position with the carry handle when in the non-carry position.